



THE CONFEDERATED SALISH AND KOOTENAI TRIBES
OF THE FLATHEAD NATION

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EXHIBIT

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DATE

1/25/11

BY

Commerce



A People of Vision

A Confederation of the Salish,
Upper Pend d'Oreilles
and Kootenai Tribes

TRIBAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

E.T. "Bud" Moran – Chairman
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Terry L. Pitts
James Steele Jr.

Joint Appropriations Committee on General Government
PO Box 200505
Helena, Mt. 59620-0505

January 25, 2011

**RE: House Bill 2 – Public Comment on Indian Country Economic Development
Program - January 25, 2011**

Dear Sirs:

The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) are offering a letter of support for continuation of the Montana Indian Country Economic Development Program grants to Montana's Tribes.

This program is a great benefit to Indian Tribes who are able to craft business and economic development programs within the state parameters to meet the unique needs of each reservation.

In the last five (5) years the leverage of state funds to other funding sources has exceeded 1:1 and the program has achieved a lasting effect in terms of increased capacity and jobs created and retained. The job creation and retention impact is important as the reservations have the highest unemployment rates within the State of Montana.

In the past, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have used the funds for business evaluation and feasibility, business expansion, job creation and equipment diversification as part of job retention.

The continued investment by the State of Montana in the ICED funds is a commitment to the health of reservation economies that are frequently left out of more mainstream State sponsored employment and job creation efforts.

We urge the Joint Appropriations Committee on General Government to continue the good work that began with the Indian Country Economic Development Program created by the 59th Legislature.

If the CSKT Tribes can be of any assistance in supporting this program, please give me a call at (406) 675-2700 ext. 1007.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E.T. Moran". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "M".

E.T. "Bud" Moran, Chairman
Tribal Council

Copy – CSKT Tribal Council
Lesa Evers, Coordinator of Indian Affairs